

Serial No. 10/791,088
Atty. Doc. No. 2002P18158US

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1, 7, and 11 and canceled claims 2, 8 and 12. Thus, claims 1, 3-7, 9, 11, 13 and 14 are currently pending and presented for examination. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Response to Rejection Under Section 112:

Claim 11, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 USC 112 for failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claim 11 has been amended to delete the limitation that was previously inserted by amendment and that was not supported by the original specification. Claims 1, 7 and 11 have been variously amended to correct other informalities. Thus, the rejection of claims 11, 13 and 14 has been overcome by the present amendments and these claims are now in condition for allowance.

Response to Rejection Under Section 102:

Claims 7 and 9 are rejected as being anticipated by Warren.

Independent claim 7 has been amended to claim an "autonomously cooled" turbo machine wherein a part of the working flow medium is passed to a "heat exchanger within an exhaust region of the turbo machine...for cooling a thermally stressed region of the turbo machine without using a separate external line for supply of cooling steam." Warren teaches away from such limitations by describing a heat exchanger 38 located external to the turbo machine and within the cross-over conduit 33 between the turbo machine 28 and a downstream low pressure turbo machine 32. Thus, the rejection of claims 7 and 9 has been overcome by the present amendments and these claims are now in condition for allowance.

Response to Rejection Under Section 103:

A) Claims 1 and 3-6 are rejected as being unpatentable over Warren.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of "cooling thermally stressed regions ... autonomously with the portion of the flow medium that has been cooled by the heat exchanger without using a separate external line for supply of cooling steam." The heat exchanger is limited to being disposed in an exhaust-steam region of the turbo machine itself. Thus, Warren teaches away from amended claim 1, since Warren describes cooling the turbine with steam that is provided from a heat exchanger 38 located external to the turbo machine itself

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and within the cross-over conduit 33 between the turbo machine 28 and a downstream low pressure turbo machine 32. Thus, the rejection of claims 1 and 3-6 has been overcome by the present amendments and these claims are now in condition for allowance.

B) Claims 11, 13 and 14 are rejected as being unpatentable over Warren.

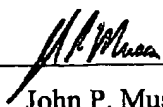
Independent claim 11 has been amended to claim a turbo machine "having autonomously cooled internal components." Claim 11 includes the limitations of "a branch line extending from the live-feed line and adapted to pass a portion of the flow medium to a heat exchanger disposed in the exhaust region of the turbo machine; and a feed line arranged downstream of the heat exchanger leading into an inflow region of the turbo machine to provide cooled steam to a stressed region of the turbo machine without using a separate external line for supply of cooling steam." Warren teaches away from such limitations by describing a turbo machine using a separate external line for supplying cooling steam from a heat exchanger 38 located within a cross-over pipe 33 external to the turbo machine 28 itself. Thus, the rejection of claims 11, 13 and 14 has been overcome by the present amendments and these claims are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action have been overcome and that the application is now in condition for allowance.. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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